

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2562

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, AO, XJ

SUBJECT: ZAMBIAN-ANGOLAN RELATIONS ON THE UP-SWING

REF: LUSAKA 0932

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. ZAMBIAN DELEGATION, LED BY REUBEN KAMANGA, CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE UNIP CENTRAL COMMITTEE, AND INCLUDING MINISTER OF HOMER AFFAIRS, AARON MILNER AND OTHER GRZ OFFICIALS RETURNED TO LUSAKA SEPTEMBER 22 AFTER 2-DAY VISIT IN LUANDA. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS OF DELEGATION'S RETURN, VISIT ENDED WITH THE ISSUANCE OF A JOINT COMMUNIQUE HIGHLIGHTS OF WHICH WERE: (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN LUSAKA AND LUANDA; (2) ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT JOINT COMMISSION TO RESOLVE EXISTING BILATERAL PROBLEMS AND OTHERS WHICH MIGHT ARISE IN THE
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FUTURE; (3) THE INTENSIFICATION OF THE EXCHANGE OF VISITS

AT ALL LEVELS BETWEEN UNIP AND MPLA AS A MEANS OF PROMOTING FURTHER MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

2. PRESS ACCOUNTS ALSO NOTED THE ZAMBIAN DELEGATION HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT THE REPAIR OF THE DAMAGED BENGUELA RAILROAD WAS NEARLY COMPLETED AND NORMAL TRAFFIC WAS LIKELY TO RESUME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. KAMANGA SAID THAT ZAMBIAN CARGO, STRANDED DURING THE ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR, MAY BE TRANSPORTED TO ZAMBIA SOON. THE DELEGATION HAD ALSO DISCUSSED REPATRIATION OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES, BUT KAMANGA DECLINED TO PROVIDE DETAILS. END UNCLASSIFIED

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3. COMMENT: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WILL CONSTITUTE ANOTHER STEP IN THE NORMALIZATION OF ZAMBIAN-ANGOLAN RELATIONS WHICH STARTED LAST APRIL WITH ZAMBIAN RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA REGIME (REFTEL). FROM THE ZWBIAN SIDE IT WOULD APPEAR THREE FACTORS ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THIS WARMING PROCESS. (1) KAUNDA'S DESIRE TO STAY IN LINE WITH THE EVOLUTION OF THE FOUR FRONTLINE STATES INTO FIVE WHICH CULMINATED WITH NETO'S PARTICIPATION IN THE SEPT 6-7 DAR "FRONTLINE" SUMMIT. (2) NETO, AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE OF NKOMO, SUPPORTED THE LATTER AT THE LAST FRONTLINE CONFERENCE IN DAR AND HAS RECENTLY PERMITTED THE OPENING OF AN ANC OFFICE IN LUANDA. KAUNDA MUST SURELY WELCOME AND BE GRATEFUL FOR THIS INCREASED SUPPORT FROM NETO FOR NKOMO, BOTH IN THE COUNCILS OF THE FRONTLINE STATES AND IN GENERAL AS WELL. (3) NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA PROVIDES IMPORTANT IMMEDIATE ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR ZAMBIA BY RECOVERY OF STRANDED IMPORT AND EXPORT CARGOES. THIS CURRENT PROGRESS TOWARDS NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS AN ABANDONMENT OF KAUNDA'S GOAL OF THE INCORPORATION OF UNITA INTO THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT BUT RATHER AS MEASURED STEPS WHICH ADVANCE OTHER HIGHER PRIORITY ZAMBIAN INTERESTS. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE AGREEMENTS INCLUDED PARALLEL ZAMBIAN EFFORTS TO DISCOURAGE UNITA ATTACKS ON THE BENGUELA RAIL LINE. END CONFIDENTIAL.

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